

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director  
Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects Resource Area

**DATE:** January 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** SFWMD's Contribution to Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Project's  
Remediation Effort

### **Background:**

The Ten Mile Creek Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) project, formally known as the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area, is an offstream water storage and treatment facility adjacent to Ten Mile Creek, a tributary to the north fork of the St. Lucie River, which discharges to the Indian River Lagoon. At present, the reservoir contains only a nominal depth of water and has not yet been placed into operation. This is due to the discovery of problematic issues such as defects in the soil-cement protective facing on the reservoir's interior and excessive piping under the reservoir's embankment, which would result in an unsafe condition to surrounding properties if the reservoir was filled to operational levels. In June 2009, the SFWMD turned operation and maintenance responsibilities for the project back over to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) until remediation construction was completed to a degree that would allow the project to be safely operated as originally intended.

On December 14, 2009, the USACE requested a \$1,000,000 contribution towards the project from the SFWMD, in accordance with Article II.D of the Project Cooperation Agreement for the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Critical Restoration Project, dated January 7, 2000. The purpose of the contribution is to provide SFWMD's share of the estimated \$2,000,000 in FY10, which is required for the USACE to complete a Post Authorization Change report identifying options for corrective actions at the site. The Post Authorization Change is the USACE's mechanism for obtaining additional construction funding for a remediation project. The Post Authorization Change report is planned to include 10% design and cost estimates for various remediation alternatives, a 30% design and cost estimate on the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), an economic analysis of the alternatives and TSP, as well as quality assurance reviews on the report.

The USACE's latest schedule assumes the TSP will be identified in August 2010, the Post Authorization Change report will be submitted to USACE Headquarters for Policy Review in November 2011, and pending approval, authority and funding for Final Design and Construction of the Recommended Plan would be provided in October 2012. Construction would begin in November 2013 and completed in November 2015.

**How this helps meeting the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:**

Approval of the \$1,000,000 in FY10 funding would help the project move closer towards completion of remediation. This would allow the project, designated a Critical Restoration Project in conjunction with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), to become operational.

**Funding Source:** This funding involves a budget transfer in the amount of \$1,000,000 of ad valorem funds (Okeechobee Basin Capital Fund) from the Operations and Maintenance Resource Area, Operations and Maintenance Program to the Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects Resource Area, CERP Program.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, along with Operations and Maintenance resource area staff, would be responsible for reviewing the alternatives contained in the Post Authorization Change report and providing comments back to the USACE. Geographically, the area that would ultimately be affected is the existing Ten Mile Creek Reservoir and STA site, located near the intersection of the Turnpike and Okeechobee Road in St. Lucie County.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** One concern is the ultimate cost of construction for a remediation project, which may range from \$13,000,000 to \$93,000,000 based on escalated costs, depending on the alternative selected and level of service achieved. The District has not committed to fund its cost share of these improvements.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** The Governing Board should approve this item in order to help the Ten Mile Creek Reservoir and STA become an operable facility.

Attachment – Resolution  
KGA/jd